

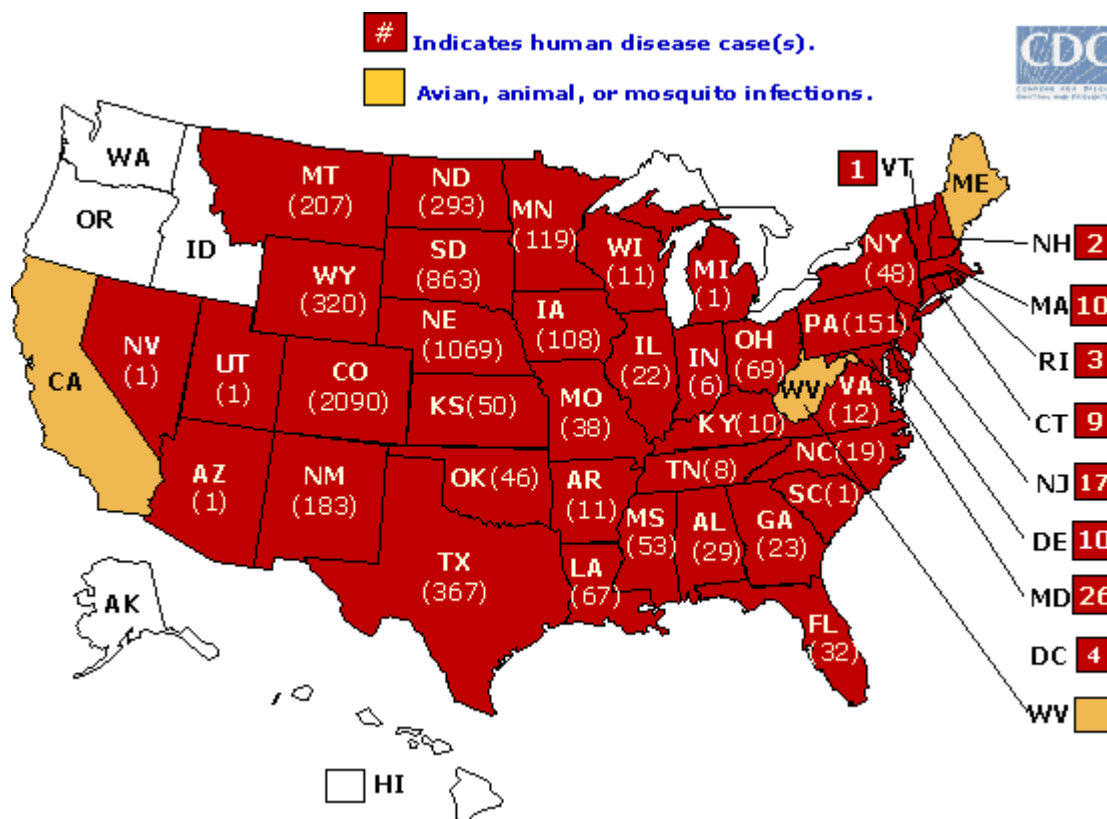


West Nile Virus Newsletter

This is an electronic publication designed to keep you informed on issues of interest related to West Nile virus (WNV) in Washington, and provide current information to assist you in developing a response plan to WNV in your jurisdiction.

Surveillance News

West Nile Virus in the United States as of October 7, 2003



The above map shows the distribution of avian, animal, or mosquito infection during 2003 with number of human cases if any, by state. If WNV infection is reported to CDC Arbonet in any area of a state, that entire state is shaded accordingly.

The cases reported to CDC ArboNet for public distribution of avian, animal, or mosquito infection reported as of October 7, 2003, include: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Human disease cases have been reported in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

There has been no reported WNV activity in Washington in 2003.

CDC says West Nile likely in California next year

BERKELEY, Calif. -- Westward expansion of WNV has prompted the government to look to California as the possible epicenter of next year's virus season.

Officials with CDC believe the mosquito-borne illness will hit the West Coast hard next year, particularly California, said Dr. Lyle Petersen, acting director of CDC's division of vector-borne diseases.

"If I had to make a guess, the biggest area of concern would be the Imperial Valley in Southern California," said Petersen, who spoke to reporters Wednesday at the University of California's Berkeley campus.

That's because the virus emerged in that area for the first time this season and has turned up in large numbers of birds and mosquitoes, following a pattern of previous outbreaks. Health officials believe human cases erupt one season after the virus first appears in the environment.

See the complete article at <http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/WestNile>

Oregon records first St. Louis Encephalitis case in 30 years

Public health officials at the state Department of Human Services (DHS) said today that a case of St. Louis encephalitis has occurred in Oregon, the first reported in more than 30 years.

Test results from the state's public health laboratory confirm that a Jefferson County resident was infected in late August. He received medical treatment and is recovering. Although he was in the wilderness in Central Oregon prior to his illness, he has not traveled out of the area.

"St. Louis encephalitis, like West Nile Virus, is spread by mosquitoes," said Emilio DeBess, DVM, state public health veterinarian in DHS. "The best way to avoid these illnesses is to take steps to avoid being bitten and to reduce mosquito habitat around your home."

See the complete news release at <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/news/2003news/2003-0926.html>

Local Focus - Public Health – Seattle & King County

Prepared by: Kim Moore, Public Health-Seattle & King County, phone: (206) 296-3998, e-mail kimberly.moore@metrokc.gov

Public Health – Seattle & King County adopted King County's WNV Response Plan in April 2003. The plan's three main components are Education, Surveillance, and Control.

The outreach and education strategy contains messages for the media, public, and partner King County agencies. The key messages for the public address risk, habitat reduction, and how to avoid mosquito bites. Community outreach activities include speaking at community/senior centers, an extensive WNV Web site, WNV hotline, fact sheets about mosquito control, responsible use of pesticides, signs and symptoms of WNV, and FAQs. A WNV fact sheet was translated into seven languages including Chinese, Khmer, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. They are posted on Public Health's Web site, (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/westnile/>) and are being widely distributed in the community via Public Health's outreach workers.

Other materials include a King County WNV brochure insert, a 30-minute WNV video, and two short public service announcements (PSAs) on habitat reduction and how to avoid being bitten by a mosquito. The videos are shown at the station manager's discretion on approximately 15 local government access television channels, including King County Television and the Seattle Channel. Public Health also put PSAs on Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean radio programming, as well as on two major AM stations with older English-speaking audiences and ran four advertisements in local Chinese-language/audience newspapers. Finally, King County held press conferences this year to explain the plan, and also held a mosquito habitat reduction photo opportunity.

Public Health's Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology, and Immunization section developed educational materials and information for health care providers regarding recognition, reporting, diagnosis, and management of WNV cases. The section also investigates suspected cases of human WNV in King County, and coordinates WNV testing of individuals if required.

In preparation for positive surveillance findings, plans for a call center were arranged to handle a surge in public inquiries. Public Health convened a WNV King County Interagency Workgroup to provide a forum for King County agencies, the city of Seattle, suburban cities and other agencies involved in WNV response in King County to share information, coordinate activities, solve problems and develop consistent public messaging. Members of the WNV King County Interagency Workgroup include: Public Health's Environmental Health and Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology and Immunization Sections, King County Departments of

Natural Resources and Parks and Transportation (Roads and Transit divisions), as well as cities in King County.

Public Health encourages the public to report dead bird sightings and to call in mosquito nuisance complaints. All dead bird complaints are tracked and GIS mapped for analysis. Birds that meet the testing criteria are selected in a manner that gives maximum geographic coverage of the county. Public Health participates in and coordinates larval surveillance in King County and also rears larvae and sends the adults mosquitoes to the Washington Department of Health for species identification. Mosquito nuisance complaints are also mapped. Owners of the property with a suspected mosquito problem are sent an educational letter about mosquito habitat reduction and WNV. Follow-up habitat reduction education is given to the property owner if necessary. As of mid-September, Public Health received 3,005 dead bird reports and 167 mosquito complaints during the 2003 WNV season.

King County's Integrated Pest Management policy is to limit the use of pesticides and use the least toxic agents and lowest impact methods for mosquito control. The King County WNV Response Plan does not endorse mosquito control in sensitive areas such as wetlands. The methods of mosquito control include reduction of artificial habitat on county owned properties and targeted use of larviciding agents to kill mosquito larvae. Public Health does not do any larviciding but provides technical assistance to governmental agencies and cities for mosquito control work on their properties.

Public Health assisted agency partners with GIS mapping of their properties and water holding structures. This information was overlaid with census data and location of at risk populations to help prioritize the properties and structures to actively survey and/or larvicide. Some King County agencies and other jurisdictions are currently doing targeted larviciding. Public Health created and maintains a database that contains mosquito larvae sampling information (larvae dip counts and location) and larviciding events (location and substance used).

Goals for the 2004 season include: increased outreach and education, enhanced coordination with suburban cities, as well as large private property owners with stormwater ponds.

Communicable Disease Epidemiology Update

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) WNV topic page has been updated for the 2003 season. The topic page will be updated periodically and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/westnile>.

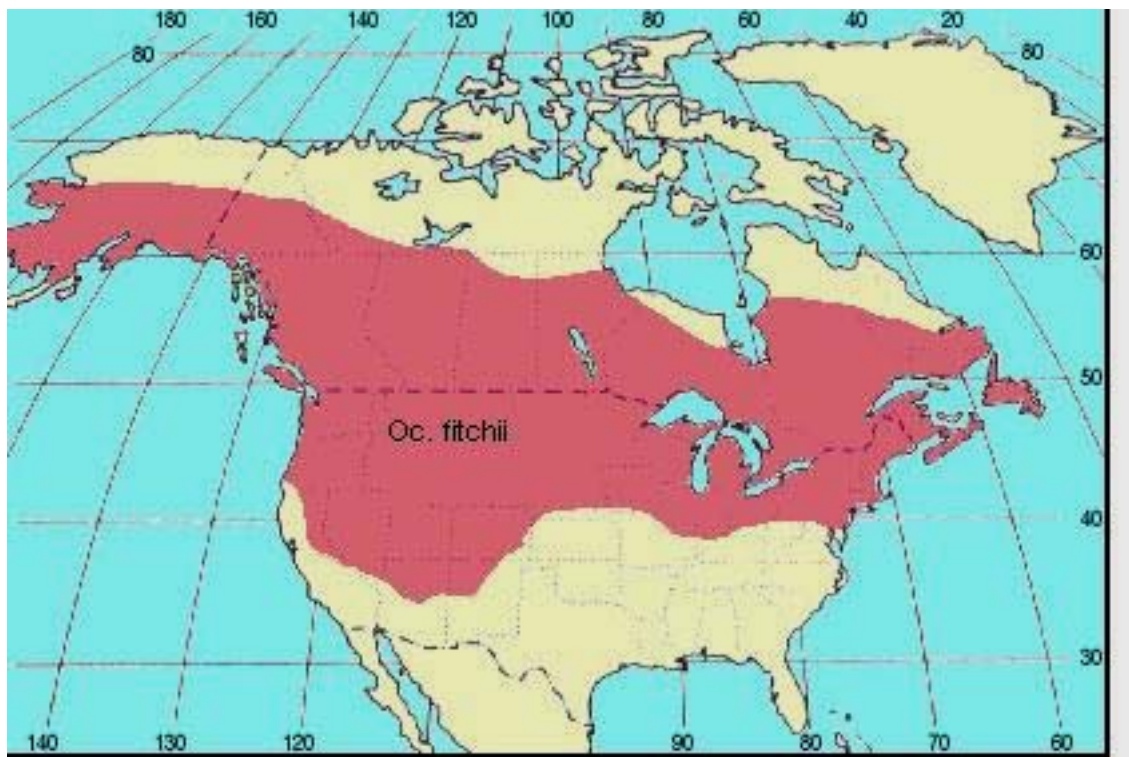
New to the WNV topic page this season are fact sheets that provide recommendations for outdoor workers and laboratory and field workers. Recommendations in the outdoor worker fact sheet focus on eliminating mosquito development sites and ensuring that workers are provided with and trained in the effective use of personal protection against mosquitoes. To view the fact sheet, go to NIOSH Web site http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/westnile/wnvfacts_outdr.html.

Mosquito Focus – *Ochlerotatus fitchii*

Ochlerotatus fitchii is a species found in the northern United States and the southern portion of Canada. It is frequently found in grassy roadside ditches and most commonly found in semi-permanent bodies of water in open areas that support emergent vegetation. Biting females are found at the edges of forests both during the day and in the evening, but cease feeding at dark.

Larvae can be found in large grassy pools in meadows in full sunlight. They can be easily overlooked since they spend a great deal of time resting on the bottom of the pools. Larvae do not swim at mid-depth like most other early season species. Standard dipping techniques will not work with this species. *Ochlerotatus fitchii* larvae are attracted to the white outline of a dipper and will swim into the cup if it is submerged and held motionless for approximately a minute.

This season, 16 counties in Washington have collected *Ochlerotatus fitchii* as of September.



Range of *Ochlerotatus fitchii*

Article Submission

We are interested in receiving articles for future publications of the WNV newsletter. Please submit articles to Tom Gibbs, tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov.

Community Comments

Let us hear your comments on this newsletter, your needs, or things you would like to see, by sending them to Maryanne Guichard, (360) 236-3391 or maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov.

WNV Web Resources

Washington State Department of Health www.doh.wa.gov/wnv
Center for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>
Washington State University Cooperative Extension <http://wnv.wsu.edu/>
Cornell University, Center for Environment <http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/erap/WNV>
Washington State Department of Agriculture
<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm>

DOH Contact List for West Nile Virus

General Public Toll-Free Hotline 1-866-78VIRUS

Publications: Brochures/Response Plan/Fact Sheets

Laura Harper, (360) 236-3380, or laura.harper@doh.wa.gov.

Surveillance: Mosquito

Jo Marie Brauner, (360) 236-3064, or jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov.

Surveillance: Dead bird surveillance and general WNV response

Tom Gibbs, (360) 236-3060, or tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov.

Surveillance: Horses, case reporting, laboratory assistance

Dr. John Grendon, (360) 236-3362, or john.grendon@doh.wa.gov.

NPDES: Training, technical assistance

Ben Hamilton, (360) 236-3364, or benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov.

WNV in Humans: Clinical information, case reporting, and laboratory testing

Call your local health jurisdiction or DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology,
(206) 361-2914 or (877) 539-4344.

Assistance with news releases and media response

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